

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 DPW-01 IO-12 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 AID-20 T-03

RSR-01 /139 W

----- 039472

O R 131142 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3007

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

CIA

DOD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1837

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO INTERNAL TALKS: TWENTY- SECOND SESSION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE TWENTY- SECOND SESSION OF THE
" TUESDAY TALKS" MARCH 13 FAILED TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS.
RLG DEL CHIEF NGON SANANIKONE PROPOSED THE SETTING UP
OF AGENDAS FOR THE TALKS AND THE FORMATION OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) BUT
WAS REBUFFED ON BOTH ISSUES BY LPF DEL CHIEF PHOUN
SIPRASEUTH. BOTH PHOUN AND SOTH PHETRASY MADE STATE-
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MENTS OPPOSING THE FORMATION OF THE JCIA UNTIL EXPLICIT PROTOCOLS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP DEFINING THE DUTIES OF THE JCIA AND ALL MEASURES TO BE EMPLOYED IN IMPLEMENTING THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH SIDES FIELDDED FULL DELEGATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE " TUESDAY TALKS" MARCH 13 BUT FAILED TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS. ACCORDING TO PRESS CONFERENCES AFTERWARD, RLG DEL CHIEF NGON SANANIKONE OPENED THE MEETING BY CALLING FOR THE DISCUSSION OF AN AGENDA FOR THIS AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. LPF DEL CHIEF PHOUN SIPRASEUTH RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO REAL NECESSITY TO HAVE AN AGENDA. NGON THEN DISCUSSED THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 11 AND 13 OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND URGED THE IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 11. PHOUN OBJECTED THAT THE JCIA COULD NOT BE FORMED UNTIL PROTOCOLS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP TO SPELL OUT THE EXACT DUTIES OF THE JCIA AND ITS SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES.

2. SOTH PHETRASY THEN TOOK THE FLOOR FOR THE LPF AND REITERATED PHOUN'S POSITION ON THE JCIA. HE SAID THERE WERE FOUR MAJOR PROBLEMS TO BE DEALT WITH ON THE MILITARY SAIDE:

- A. ACTION OF THE CEASEFIRE ITSELF;
- B. THE EXCHANGE OF POW' S;
- C. THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS: AND
- D. THE FORMATION OF THE JCIA.

SOTH POINTED OUT THAT PROCEDURES MUST BE DEvised TO ENABLE THE FIGHTING FORCES TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, OR CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR. THE LOCATION AND IDENTITY OF FOREIGN TROOPS MUST ALSO BE DETERMINED, HE SAID, AND THE PROCEDURES FOR WITHDRAWING THEM AGREED UPON.

3. TURNING TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS, SOTH STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT MUST BE AGREED TO, AS WELL AS THE PROCEDURES FOR FORMING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL.
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SINCE NOTHING HAS BEEN AGREED UPON YET, HE SAID, IT IS

NOT POSSIBLE TO SET UP THE JCIA AT THIS TIME.

4. IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF PROGRESS AT TODAY' S SESSION,
BOTH SOTH AND RLG DEL NOUPHAT CHOUNRAMANY SAID PRIVATELY
THAT THEY EXPECT TO MEET THE MARCH 23 DEADLINE FOR
ESTABLISHING THE NEW COALITION
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL COUNCIL.
DEAN

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